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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN

ALUMNI MAGAZINE • SPECIAL ISSUE • 2020



Embracing Change





A Sense of Belonging

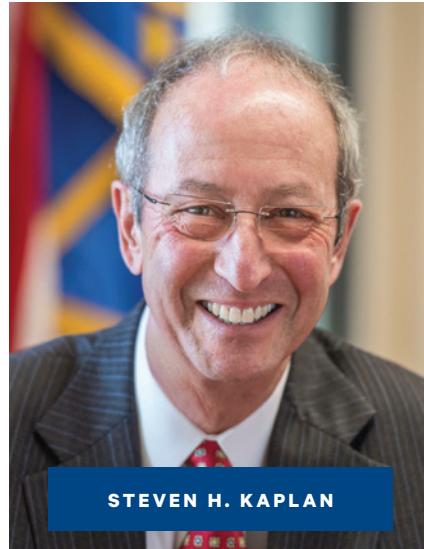
Although we have not been able to gather in person on the University of New Haven campus for some time, the campus itself has continued to thrive, coming to life at the start of new spring and summer seasons. It is a steadfast presence in the midst of all of the uncertainty in the world today, ready to welcome its Charger family home.

An Alternative Destiny

In his book "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind," author Yuval Noah Harari writes, "This is the best reason to learn history: not in order to predict the future, but to free yourself of the past and imagine alternative destinies."

Over the past six months, we have, unfortunately, experienced heightened levels of something all too familiar across history: human suffering. Some of these experiences have been largely out of our control as the onset of COVID-19 turned our world upside down. Others, such as infuriating occurrences of racism and other inexcusable forms of intolerance, should be seen as within our control to the extent that each and every one of us had, and has, a role to play in fighting these offenses and building toward a better tomorrow.

But over these past six months, we have also experienced something new: an unprecedented level of human resilience in the face of adversity both around the world and in our own University of New Haven community.



STEVEN H. KAPLAN

We need to determine, instead, what we expect of ourselves. How do we want to be written into this historical narrative? What alternative destiny can we strive for?

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven H. Kaplan".

Steven H. Kaplan, Ph.D.
President

UNIVERSITY OF
NEW HAVEN
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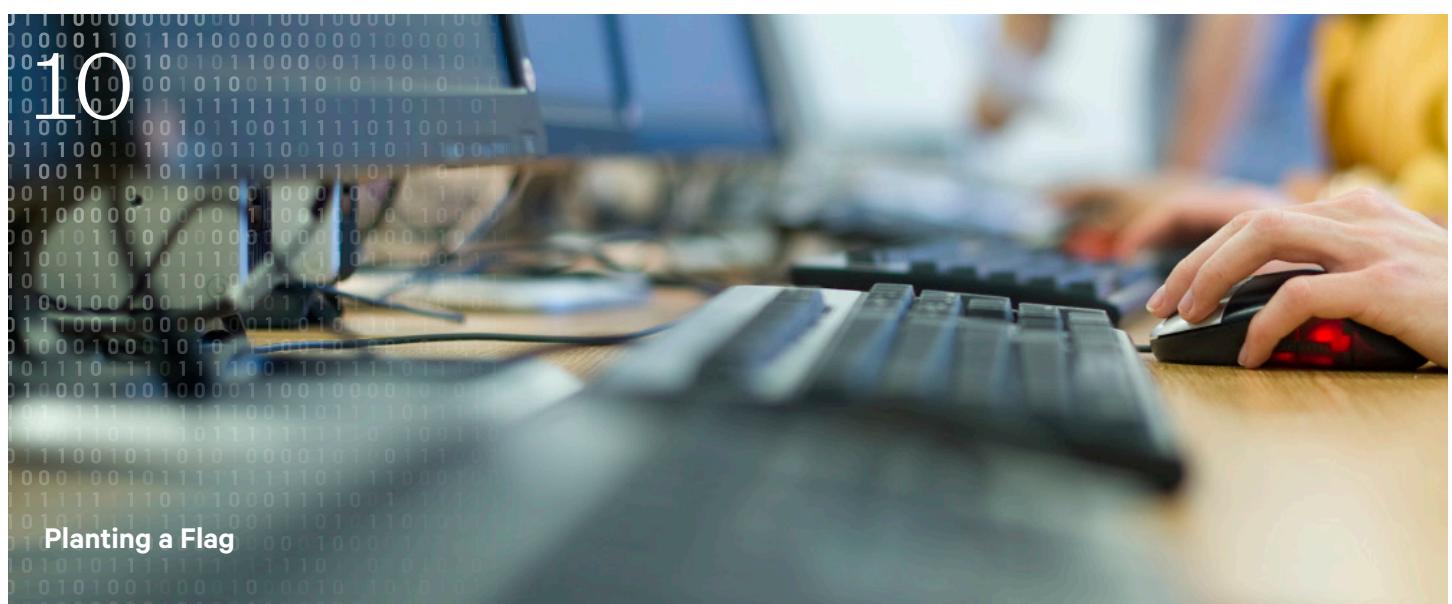
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chargers
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fall.

The University of New Haven
commissioned Bob Shure of
Skylight Studios, Inc., a renowned
and talented artist, to complete
the sculpture.

A New Arrival

A Stunning and Inspirational Symbol of the University of New Haven's Character Joins the Charger Family

One of the most anticipated events of the Spring 2020 semester was originally scheduled to take place on April 5 — coming together to unveil our new Charger statue.

The University of New Haven conceived this spectacular monument, funded by gracious donations, as a symbol of the power, resilience, and enduring strength of our University community. We have seen these attributes come into stark relief as we have responded to the current challenges brought on by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

We are pleased to share with you a video that captured the statue's arrival on campus. Perhaps now, more than ever before, we need something to unite us. This statue will bond all members of our community across the history of the University — past, present, and for generations to come.

"This statue truly captures what will help all of us to get through this together: the Charger spirit. I hope it lifts yours."

— Christina Genovese '20, Class President

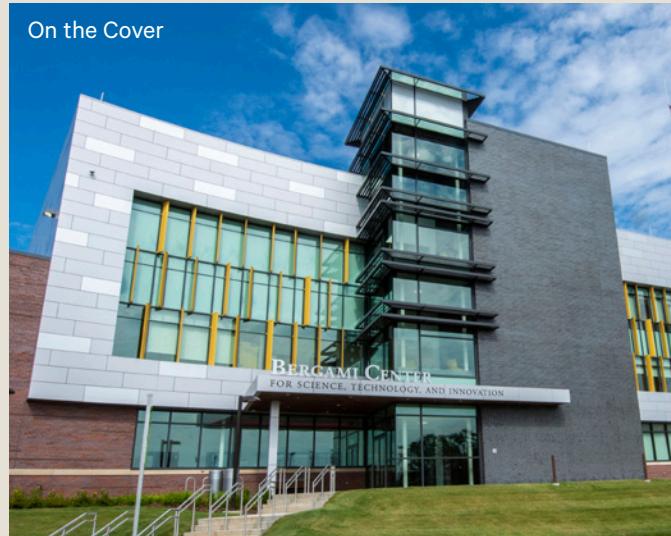
The Grand Opening

of the Bergami Center for Science, Technology, and Innovation

The University of New Haven held a virtual ribbon cutting ceremony on August 25 to celebrate its newest learning space. Named in recognition of longtime University benefactors Samuel S. Bergami Jr. '85 EMBA and Lois Bergami, the Bergami Center was made possible by donations from hundreds of alumni, staff, and faculty.

[Watch](#) the grand opening on demand and learn more about this state-of-the-art innovation hub.

On the Cover



Board of Governors Chair

William Bucknall Makes Naming Gift

in Honor of President
Steven H. Kaplan and
Anemone Schweizer-Kaplan



William Bucknall '63, '65, '08 Hon. has made a \$1 million gift to the University of New Haven in support of student scholarships, undergraduate research, and excellence in teaching. Bucknall joined the Board of Governors in 2006 and recently came to the end of his term as chair, a position he held for the past two years. In a decision universally approved by the Board, Bucknall requested that the University rename Bayer Hall as Anemone and Steven Kaplan Hall in honor of President Kaplan and his wife.

Overachieving Since 1920

The University of New Haven — buoyed by a transformational commitment from Charles and Tamera Pompea (see story on page 12) — has set a fundraising record, raising more than \$18 million to support student scholarships and a wide variety of high-impact initiatives across the University as well as surpassing its Centennial campaign goal, which had been raised to \$120 million. With federal and state grants totaling \$31.5 million, the campaign now stands at \$152.5 million.



The Pompea COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The Pompea Family Gifts Students Unparalleled Opportunity

University of New Haven alumnus Charles E. Pompea '71, '90 EMBA; his wife, Tamera; and the Pompea family have given the largest gift in the history of the University of New Haven to support student scholarships and the enhancement and development of several groundbreaking programs in the College of Business. Pompea is the retired president and CEO of Primary Steel and chair of the University's Board of Governors.

In recognition of this generosity, the University will name the Pompea College of Business in their honor.

"Charlie is, without question, one of the University's most successful graduates," said University President Steven H. Kaplan. "Throughout his life, he has always exhibited a tireless work ethic and a sense of humility that has made him a great leader. His passion for the University knows no bounds. He and Tamera are incredible individuals who have done so much for our students. It is most fitting that the College of Business will bear their name."

In addition to student scholarships, the gift will support the creation and/or continued development of several pioneering interdisciplinary programs, including:

- An online master's degree in forensic accounting.
- An executive cybersecurity management program for IT professionals looking to move up in management and work toward chief information security officer positions.
- An online master's degree in esports business, which includes a concentration in esports management and an interdisciplinary program in esports and gaming.
- A micro-credential/competency-based certification designed specifically for Connecticut trade school students.

As a senior majoring in business management, Pompea accepted a job offer from Concord Steel, one of three he received before graduating. After spending a year there, he moved to Primary Steel, where he spent nearly 20 years advancing up the corporate



Interview with Charlie

Listen: Charles Pompea shares why it is important to him to support his alma mater in this SoundCloud audio recording.

“On this very special day celebrating the generosity of the Pompea family, I’m thrilled to say that I’m a member of the University’s Centennial class and among the first graduates of the Pompea College of Business.”

— Emma Conrad ’19, ’20 MBA
delivers remarks during a virtual toast
celebrating the Pompea family

A Home in Orange, Connecticut



In 2014, Charles and Tamera joined former classmate Samuel S. Bergami Jr. ’85 EMBA and his wife, Lois, in supporting the University’s purchase of its campus in Orange. The building was dedicated as the Bergami and Pompea Graduate Center and is home to the newly named Pompea College of Business.



ladder, ultimately becoming president. In 1993, he purchased the business, increasing its annual sales significantly during his 15 years as owner.

Throughout his remarkable career, he has maintained a passion for giving back: “When I began to make my way in the world, it became increasingly evident to me that I needed to look beyond myself and start giving back to the community,” he said.

“I developed a foundation for success as a student at UNH,” Pompea said, “and I returned to pursue my Executive MBA at a critical point in my career. I greatly believe in the University of New Haven.”

Pompea previously served two respective terms as vice chair of the University’s Board of Governors. He was elected chair this past spring and began serving in his new role on July 1, 2020. Charles and Tamera Pompea, who formerly lived in Waterford and Lyme, Connecticut, are now residents of Hobe Sound, Florida.

In Solidarity

Building Bridges and Healing Pain

Lorenzo M. Boyd, Ph.D., has been appointed vice president for diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer at the University of New Haven. Here, Dr. Boyd discusses his commitment to institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) priorities; his plans to foster a sense of belonging within our campus community; and his hopes for moving Charger Nation forward.



Questions & Answers with Lorenzo M. Boyd

Q: How do you see this “here and now” as a turning point?

A: Although many of the societal issues we are facing are not new, 2020 has become a perfect storm. We are fighting against not only a global pandemic but also heightened levels of systemic racism, homophobia, misogyny, xenophobia, ableism, and anti-Semitism. What is unprecedented is that many groups have coalesced in a united front to rise up against this oppression. To keep doing this effectively, we must remember that just because someone else’s fight does not look like our fight, it does not mean that their struggle is not real.

Q: You have often been quoted, with equal parts compassion and determination, that “there is much pain to heal.” Can you speak more to this?

A: Throughout my career I have been brought in to build bridges between the police and various communities, and I have seen, heard, and experienced the pain in these communities. People are tired. Add to that the global pandemic and divisive political rhetoric, and we see that emotions are high and nerves are frayed. I realized early on that this pain can be far-reaching; a community’s allies are often also dealing with vicarious trauma. We cannot ignore this.

Q: What does “solidarity” mean to you?

A: Solidarity means that we first try to understand and empathize with the plight or struggle of others. It is more than just being an ally — it is about being an advocate. Before we can join the fight for equality for all, we have to first have a real grasp of what the true issues are and viable ways to address these issues. We need to listen to what people are really asking for and work with them to make these solutions happen.

Q: How do you think the University of New Haven is uniquely equipped to address these issues?

A: The University of New Haven is seated, physically, in a diverse area. If we can successfully leverage the diversity on and off campus, in the community, and with local and state governments, we can help all Chargers access the things they need. We also have a vast alumni network, and their experiences — and voices — are important for the University to move forward. We do not have to agree on all things, but we do have to agree that everyone deserves to be respected and allowed to reach their personal best on and off campus. With better understanding of how to develop programs that increase empathy and compassion, we can ensure that all Chargers reach their highest potential.

Q: What does it mean to you to have been selected for this new position?

A: This role guarantees I have a wider berth to make a difference and positively affect the lives of all Chargers. In my former role as assistant provost for diversity and inclusion, my focus was strictly on academic issues. Now I get to bridge the gaps between academic affairs, student affairs, and employee relations. Being a direct report to the University President means that we can cut through levels of bureaucracies and more effectively help groups most in need. This is truly a chance to ensure that all Charger voices are heard.

Q: What are you most anticipating?

A: I look forward to learning more about each community and their challenges and helping remove barriers to success. No one person can be an expert in every group or on every issue, but I am committed to meeting with and learning from each group in Charger Nation. For me, this is not just a job; it is a calling — a way of life. I am committed to social justice. That will never change.

Q: What are your short-term and longer-term goals for DEI initiatives at the University?

A: I will immediately be working to fix the systems that have allowed or caused members of our community to experience pain and trauma. I plan to use the IDEA Council to rework our DEI statement and ensure that all members of the University have increased awareness of LGBTQ+ issues, among issues other groups face. I'm also working with the Dean of Students Office to revise the Bias Reporting System.

Longer term, I'll be overseeing a DEI audit of the entire University's academic curriculum. I also want to put measures in place to ensure that all employees and students get increased DEI training, regularly. In addition, I'm focused on increasing student engagement in more diverse programming. It is also critical that we diversify faculty and staff new hires.

Q: What is the one thing you would want people to know about you as you begin your new role?

A: I want people to understand that I have worked the bulk of my career giving a voice to marginalized communities. I have been fighting for reform, equal access, and equity. Instead of accepting what cannot be done, I ask how we can make things happen. I try to get people to view the plights of others with compassion and understanding.

Q: Your job involves working with many different groups and communities within the student body.

What would you say to those who might question your level of experience working with any one particular group?

A: Asking what I know about one community at one point in time is not the correct question to ask. A better question is this: How quickly will I work to address issues as they are brought to my attention?

I am committed to working with and learning about all communities in Charger Nation and increasing their inclusion. For instance, within my first month in this position, I have begun working on three major issues regarding the LGBTQ+ community: first, to display people's chosen names at the University of New Haven in all systems and eliminate the ability to use deadnames; second, to increase the number of gender-inclusive bathrooms on campus; and, third, to increase the awareness and training of all employees and students about the LGBTQ+ community. I am also working with members of PRIDE and SPECTRA to address these issues as well as others.

True diversity includes diversity of opinion and thought, and everyone's voice needs to be heard. If we can leverage various opinions and experiences, we can better increase levels of inclusion across the board in Charger Nation.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Campus Priorities

- Two newly assembled DEI teams — students and faculty, respectively — will help set big-picture priorities.
- Members of the campus community and the IDEA Council are conducting a SWOT analysis regarding DEI issues.
- The University is implementing strategic action items from the Campus Climate Survey.
- Faculty and staff are working to ensure accessibility, particularly within the remote learning environment.
- The Myatt Center is determining additional needs to better leverage resources to serve our campus community.
- Academics and Student Affairs are working to revamp the UNIV 1141 common course into the “UNcommon Course” to address such issues as racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia.
- Faculty from the School of Health Sciences are developing a pilot DEI curriculum audit and will later expand this to conduct an audit of all University curricula.

PLANTING A FLAG LAUNCHING THE CONNECTICUT

On May 21, 2020, the University of New Haven announced it is establishing the Connecticut Institute of Technology (Connecticut Tech).

“Our goal is to reinforce our standing as a destination university for technology education and research in the Northeast,” said University President Steven H. Kaplan, Ph.D. “We pride ourselves on being forward-thinking and market-driven. Groundbreaking efforts like this are critical to preparing our students for careers of the future that haven’t yet been envisioned.”

Connecticut Tech will comprise the University's undergraduate and graduate programs in cybersecurity and networks, computer science, data science, and electrical and computer engineering as well as several research groups. The mission is to foster a technology hub that will feature an intense focus on applied learning and research.

Ibrahim (Abe) Baggili, Ph.D., Elder Family Chair and an internationally recognized expert in cybersecurity, was appointed director of Connecticut Tech. Under his leadership over the past several years, Dr. Baggili has brought significant national visibility to the University's Cybersecurity and Networks Program.

In 2019, the National Security Agency recognized the University of New Haven as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber

Operations, a designation earned by only 21 universities in the country. The University also received a \$4 million Scholarship for Service Grant from the National Science Foundation to help prepare cybersecurity professionals for federal, state, and tribal government agencies.



"We are planting a flag that signals we will be the tech and education hub for the state of Connecticut," said Baggili. "We are going to play a pivotal role in stimulating the state's economy and, beyond that, generating the highest quality students and research in the areas of cybersecurity, computing, and AI."

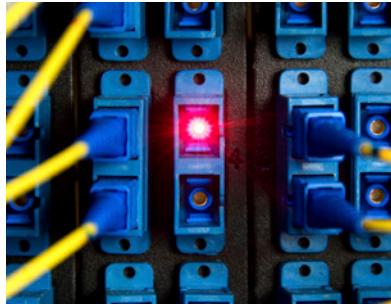
Connecticut Tech will foster collaboration and interdisciplinary research across all colleges and schools at the University by incorporating these three areas into nonengineering programs.

“Inclusion of these technologies across all curricula is essential today, when issues of cybersecurity and data breaches are impacting multiple industries and businesses,” said Baggili. “Whether it’s bank transactions, stock trades, manufacturing





INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



data, medical records, criminal records, forensic evidence, scientific data, or retail transactions, it all needs to be secure."

Ron Harichandran, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, dean of the Tagliatela College of Engineering and vice provost of research, said the reputation of the University's program in cybersecurity, data, and electrical and computer engineering ensures that Connecticut Tech will make an immediate impact.

"Launching the Connecticut Institute of Technology will unite the strengths within the Tagliatela College of Engineering and serve as a technology focal point at the University," said Dean Harichandran.



"We are planting a flag that signals we will be the tech and education hub for the state of Connecticut."

— Ibrahim (Abe) Baggili, Ph.D.



Positioning Students for Success

Ophelie Rowe-Allen, Ed.D., Named Dean of Students and Chief Student Affairs Officer

On June 16, 2020, the University of New Haven announced the appointment of Ophelie Rowe-Allen, Ed.D., to the position of dean of students and chief student affairs officer. Dr. Rowe-Allen assumed her new position in mid-July. She joins the University of New Haven after 13 years with Fairfield University, where she served with distinction as the associate dean of students and director of residence life. She also served Fairfield University as associate dean of assessment and director of student diversity and multicultural affairs.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Rowe-Allen joining our Charger community," said University of New Haven President Steven H. Kaplan, Ph.D. "I am confident that she will help us build on the remarkable success to date of our student affairs programming and add incredible value for the lifeblood of this institution — our students."

Gregory E. Eichhorn, vice president for enrollment and student success, echoed President Kaplan's sentiments: "We are fortunate to bring Dr. Rowe-Allen's tremendous experience working with students both inside and outside the classroom to the University," he said.

Rowe-Allen said, "I would like to thank the University of New Haven for this opportunity to work in a vibrant, diverse community and to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the Dean of Students Office."

Prior to her work at Fairfield University, Rowe-Allen began her career in higher education in residence life at Miami International University of Art & Design.

She served as an adjunct professor and lecturer at the University of Bridgeport, Miami International University of Art & Design, and Fairfield University.

Rowe-Allen has been active with numerous professional organizations, serving as a presenter and speaker. She has also been recognized at Fairfield University as a Martin Luther King Jr. Visions Award winner and by her peers in the field of social justice. Rowe-Allen holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in mental health counseling from St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida. She received her educational doctorate in counseling education and supervision from Argosy University in Washington, D.C.

Rowe-Allen assumes her new responsibilities as Rebecca Johnson, who served the University in many student affairs roles over her 40-year tenure — most recently as vice president for student affairs — retires (see story on page 9).



At the Intersection of Education and Technology

Cynthia Gallatin lends her expertise in higher education and online instruction to foster the growth of innovative and durable online learning at the University of New Haven

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of New Haven charged ahead in Spring 2020 as a student-centered learning community dedicated to providing an exciting and fulfilling experience for its bright and talented young adults — whether on-ground, online, or with a hybrid model.

During this time, faculty learned a multitude of new skills and successfully pivoted to remote instruction. As the University then began to prepare for summer sessions and the start of a new academic year, it looked to build upon the fine work that had been accomplished and harness those efforts.

Recognizing an immediate need for expert support, University President Steven H. Kaplan, Ph.D., and Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Mario Gaboury, J.D., Ph.D., announced the hiring of Cynthia Gallatin, a higher education leader with more than 25 years of experience, as Chief of Digital Learning Initiatives. Having worked at the intersection of education and technology, Gallatin brings her expertise in online instruction to this position. Her career has included marketing, sales, admissions, curriculum development, teaching, and extensive management experience. Most recently, she served as chief recruitment and engagement officer at Northeastern University, where she oversaw marketing and

admissions for graduate and professional degree programs. She led a staff of more than 60 employees throughout North America who supported programs across the university.

Prior to that position, Gallatin was the vice president and chief operating officer for online programs at Quinnipiac University. In 2001, she launched QU Online, a division focused on providing instructional design, technical and administrative support, and admissions and marketing for all online programs. She was a member of the president's cabinet and the senior leadership team and taught various marketing courses, such as "Introduction to Marketing and E-Commerce."

"I am delighted to have Cynthia collaborating with our faculty," President Kaplan stated. "I am confident that with her expertise and our community's collective talent and unbounded dedication to our students, we will continue to build and deliver a virtual student experience worthy of the University of New Haven name."

Gallatin's current interests include the integration of technology in education, digital marketing, and new educational business models. She holds an MBA in Marketing from the University of Bridgeport and a B.S. in Biology from Fairfield University.

A Distinguished Tenure

World-Renowned Forensic Scientist Dr. Henry C. Lee Announces Retirement from the University of New Haven

Dr. Henry C. Lee, one of the foremost educators in the University of New Haven's 100-year history, will retire at the end of August 2020.

Since joining the faculty in 1975, Dr. Lee has helped build the University's Forensic Science Program from a small classroom equipped with a single fingerprint kit into an internationally recognized multidisciplinary academic department that is considered one of the nation's best.

Lee has played a transformative role in building the international brand of the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, which is named in his honor. Under his leadership, the College has raised the visibility of the University and advanced the field of forensic science.

"Few individuals have had such a lasting influence on the trajectory of a field as significant and groundbreaking as forensic science, or on the reputation and success of an institution as Dr. Lee," said University President Steven H. Kaplan, Ph.D.

Throughout his legendary career, Lee has assisted in the investigation of more than 8,000 criminal cases, including the O. J. Simpson case, the review of the John F. Kennedy assassination, and the death of JonBenét Ramsey.

"In a word, Dr. Lee is a pioneer," said Mario Gaboury, J.D., Ph.D., interim provost and senior vice president for academic affairs and former dean of the Lee College.



In 2010, the University completed construction of the ultra-modern Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science building to enhance and enrich the work of the Institute that Dr. Lee founded. This state-of-the-art facility allows the Institute to conduct advanced forensic research and train law enforcement professionals from around the globe.

"The remarkable impact Dr. Lee has had is embodied in the scores of individuals he has trained throughout his esteemed career," said David Schroeder, Ph.D., acting dean of the Lee College. "He is a gifted and passionate educator and a brilliant scientist."

Lee will continue to serve in an advisory capacity and will assist in teaching, generating funding, and promoting the Lee Institute and the University of New Haven around the globe. An emeritus member of the University's Board of Governors, Lee is also among the University's most devoted benefactors.

Selfless Devotion

Vice President for Student Affairs Reflects on Meaningful 40-Year Career

After four decades of service, Rebecca "Becky" Johnson, M.A., is now retiring and reflecting on a distinguished career in which she has touched the lives of countless students.

Johnson joined the University of New Haven community in 1980 as the director of the student center and immediately went to work building a residential life program from the ground up. After being promoted to director of residential life and then to associate dean of students, she began supervising several departments in Student Affairs along with the Office of Residential Life. She was named dean of students in 2003, associate vice president in 2009, and vice president in 2016.

While she considers each of the many programs she has initiated or been involved with to be meaningful, some stand out: the University's Living Learning Community Program; the Competency Learning Experience; and the New Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) Program for first-year students.

"The most rewarding aspect of working in higher education is watching students grow not only academically, but personally," she said. "I remember one student at SOAR who was in tears when her mother left. I connected her that morning with someone in her major and then watched her grow into a confident student leader by the time she graduated. That makes me smile."



Johnson credits her parents with instilling in her and her siblings a love of learning and a passion for knowledge. She later went on to earn a master's degree in college student personnel administration from Michigan State University. She has spent the majority of her career in higher education, something she says has enabled her to cultivate a sense of community at the University of New Haven.

"When asked to explain my job in residential life, I have often said it is like being the mayor of a small town," she explained. "We are a community that has all of the same issues that exist in larger communities. We have the unique opportunity as an educational institution to respond in ways that can make a difference in the lives of our students."

One piece of advice Johnson has shared with countless students will stand the test of time: "Be an engaged and respectful community member, and set high goals for yourself."



The University of New Haven Fight Song

We are the Chargers. We will never fall.

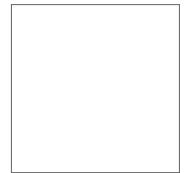
We are the Chargers, and we will conquer all!

When we are called to act, we will not hesitate
to bring victory and pride to **U-N-H! FIGHT!**



University of New Haven

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The University of New Haven

CENTENNIAL BALL

There's **VIRTUALLY** Only
One Place to Be on
Saturday, October 3 at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit
newhaven.edu/100years